

REMARKS

The claims have been substituted to remove multiple dependent claims and to conform to U.S. Patent Office practice. Please enter this amendment before calculating the filing fees.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (Amended) A separator for axial actuators including two positioner rings comprising at least three pairs of spiral raceways each movable contrary to the other, the separator comprising three spacers [(4A, 4B, 4C)] at least spirally interconnected to comply with the shape of the raceways in reducing the friction between said positioner rings [(10, 12)], whereby rotation of one positioner ring results in axial motion of the other positioner ring.

2. (Amended) The separator as set forth in claim 1 wherein said spacers [(4A, 4B, 4C)] are made of a friction-reducing material.

3. (Amended) The separator as set forth in claim 2, comprising

- a) three spiral surfaces [(4A, 4B, 4C)] each describing a circular arc of approx. 120° in roughly the width of said raceways and
- b) at least one cylindrical sleeve[(6)],
- c) whereby said spiral surfaces are secured to the inner or outer circumference of said at least one cylindrical sleeve[(6)].

4. (Amended) The separator as set forth in claim 2, comprising

- a) three spiral surfaces [(4A, 4B, 4C)] each describing a circular arc of approx. 120° in roughly the width of said raceways and
- b) two cylindrical concentric sleeves [(6, 6A)] differing in diameter,
- c) whereby said spiral surfaces [(4A, 4B, 4C)] are secured between said cylindrical sleeves [(6, 6A)].

6. (Amended) The separator as set forth in claim 1 wherein said spacers [(4A, 4B, 4C)] comprise

- a) a cage complying to said three spirally ascending spiral surfaces each describing a circular arc of approx. 120° in roughly the width of said raceways,
- b) said cage comprising rolling elements conventionally connected thereto.

10. (Amended) The separator as set forth in [any of the] claim[s] 2 [to 5] wherein said friction-reducing material is a bronze alloy or a plastics material.

11. (Amended) The separator as set forth in [any of the] claim[s] 6 [to 9] wherein said rolling elements [(8)] are rollers or needles.

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